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**Conway Redistricting Public Hearing
Summary of Testimony**

Horry-Georgetown Technical College (Conway Campus)
April 4, 2011 6:30-8:30 p.m. scheduled

The public hearing began at 6:39 p.m. The Redistricting Subcommittee members present were: Senator McConnell, Senator Ford, Senator Hutto, Senator Malloy, and Senator Cleary. The Senate Redistricting staff persons present were: Debbie Hammond, Bonnie Anzelmo, Paula Benson, and Laurie Traywick. Approximately 44 people attended.

Senator McConnell welcomed the public and gave a brief overview of the redistricting process. He introduced the members of the subcommittee present and indicated that a House subcommittee was involved in a similar process. He explained that the Senate subcommittee was charged with initiating the process of redistricting; that prior to any legislation being put into effect, it would have to be precleared by the Department of Justice; and that the subcommittee was conducting these hearings to listen to views and learn what people want considered in the development of redistricting plans. He cautioned that redistricting is an exact process, and that speakers needed to address their remarks specifically to Senate or Congressional Districts. He asked that speakers limit their remarks in order that all may be heard and indicated they could submit written comments if they needed to provide further description. He recommended that people consult the website for additional information.

1. Vincent Lehotsky was the first speaker. He lives in Allsbrook near Loris and discussed Senate District 28. He believes the combination of the rural area where he resides with North Myrtle Beach and Little River means that the coastal areas of the district receive more attention. He suggested combining the coastal areas with Myrtle Beach and placing part of District 33 with the rural area, which has more in common with the farms and fields in the rural area.

Senator Hutto asked where Loris is. Mr. Lehotsky showed him on the map.

2. Steven Neeves was the second speaker. He is excited about the prospect of a new Congressional District. He recommends that Georgetown and Horry should be kept together.

3. Lois Eargle was the third speaker. She thanked the subcommittee for coming and commented it was wonderful to be in a country where one could express one's view to elected representatives. She advocates that Myrtle Beach and Conway be kept together.

4. Charlie Luquire was the fourth speaker. He gave a bullet sheet to the members of the subcommittee. He is from Georgetown and spoke primarily about Senate Seat 34, where Georgetown is aligned with Horry County. He recommends that four elements are important in the redistricting process: (1) preserving cores of districts; (2) maintaining integrity of political alignments; (3) recognizing communities of interest; and (4) avoiding contests between incumbents.

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5. Dennis J. DiSebarto, Jr., was the fifth speaker. He spoke about the people in Georgetown and Horry, and particularly in North Waccamaw, which he said is a community with unique needs.

6. Daniel Cochran, the sixth speaker, lives in the Wildwood precinct in Horry. He concurred with the previous speaker. He mentioned the difficulties of travel time in a district and said he lives in a district with split precincts. He asked that neighborhoods be kept together.

Senator McConnell informed him it was a House district with split precincts.

Mr. Cochran is a tea party activist and works with the Carolina Patriots. He said there is a world of difference between the Georgetown and Horry areas and Marion and Florence.

7. Representative Thad Viers, the seventh speaker, spoke about the Congressional District. He pointed out that Horry County is the second largest tobacco producing county in the state and advocates a Pee Dee based Congressional District. In support of that recommendation, he cited common medical facilities and technical schools.

8. Earl Barnes, from Springfield near Myrtle Beach, was the eighth speaker. He recommends that no county be in more than two Congressional Districts.

9. Susan Sejea was the ninth speaker. She serves on a tri-county board and is concerned that Horry, the county with the greatest population, receives the most assistance. She asked that in redistricting that the subcommittee consider the needs of each county.

The local solicitor was recognized and thanked for coming.

10. Senator Elliott was the tenth speaker. He thanked the subcommittee for having the hearing and recommends reestablishing the old Pee Dee Congressional District, so the family would be back together. He said his Senate District combines very compatible regions with cooperation among the counties. He said much progress had been made, but they still have problems with the roads.

Since no one else asked to be heard, Senator McConnell adjourned the meeting at 7:19 pm.